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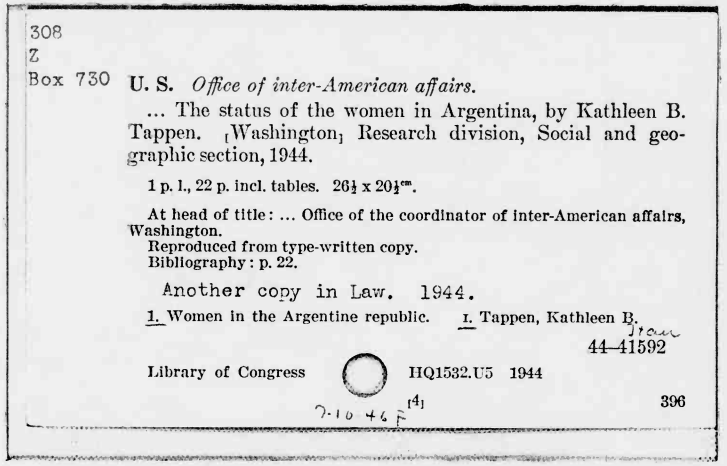

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OFFICE OF THE COORDINATOR OF INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Washington

THE STATUS OF THE WOMEN IN ARGENTINA

by

Kathleen B. Tappen

308
Z
Box 730

Research Division

Social and Geographic Section

June 1944

THE STATUS OF THE WOMEN IN ARGENTINA

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THE WOMEN OF ARGENTINA

Introduction.

The people of Argentina, the majority of whom are descended from Spanish and Italian forbears, have long clung to many European traditions and customs. This has naturally had its effect on the place of women in private and also the national life of the country. For generations, like her European sisters before her, she has been taught and trained to lead a life of secluded domesticity and to be content with a position of intellectual inferiority and little personal freedom. She has led perhaps the most restricted life in all Latin America, confined and protected within the family circle. Of her important position in the home, however, there has never been any doubt.

Argentine women of the upper class have achieved an international reputation for style, beauty, and culture. Those of the middle-class by far the most numerou in Argentina, are for the most part, intelligent and intellectual. The women of the working class exist for their families; their work, whether domestic or industrial, is always for the betterment of family conditions.

Until recently, Argentine women were expected to follow the custom of living in seclusion with their families. Their primary purpose in life was marriage, the bearing and rearing of children, and the duties of a homemaker. Aside from their influence in family affairs they had no place as a constructive force in national life. Little change in the social restrictions which surrounded the daily life of women had been made through their own efforts. Senorita Victoria Ocampo, publisher of the famous magazine Sur has stated that the position of women is in many ways their own fault as they have accepted her restricted position without protest.

Within the last five or six years, however, increased contact with the modern world and expanding industry have influenced women to seek greater social and economic freedom. They are entering the professional world, although opposition from both sexes is still strong. Young girls are given business training; they spend a short period in offices while waiting for marriage, still thought all-important by most Argentine women. World trade has increased the number of factories in the Republic, and women of the working class are leaving home duties or domestic service for the greater economic and social freedoms of industry.

But they are still meeting much opposition in attaining equality with men. Their wages are lower for the same type of work. It is still difficult for them to achieve recognition in the professional world. When their apathy towards securing equality with men is overcome, they will undoubtedly fight for and achieve complete freedom, for their leaders are among the most forceful women of Latin America.

Social customs.

Women are still largely confined to the home, although modern life is broadening their activities in the life of the nation. The average Argentine is still shocked when girls and young married women appear alone in public. A daughter is closely sheltered; seldom is she permitted to meet men alone. The growing custom of living alone is still regarded with disapproval, although the entry of women into business life often makes such an arrangement desirable or necessary. Few well-bred women go on the streets of Buenos Aires, except between

the afternoon hours of five and seven, when they may stroll with propriety along the Calle Florida. No well-bred man speaks to a woman on the street, even though they may be the best of friends, for such an act would compromise the woman beyond idle gossip.

Hollywood and international contacts are gradually breaking down the Moorish seclusion of women, but the average woman is not rushing to take advantage of her new liberties. In practice the Argentine family, and particularly that of the lower class, has adopted only a few modifications of a social nature. The emergence of women into industry has placed them on a more natural basis with men. Girls are now entering the sports world, taking part in amateur theatricals, and other community activities. They dare to appear on a public beach in abbreviated shorts. The sophisticated woman of the upper class now ventures to dine, dance, and smoke in public, but there is usually a brother or cousin in the background to offer protection. The influence of the Nordic world, and the efforts of Argentina's feminists are meeting with more opposition in the emancipation of women than might be expected.

The family.--The education and social activities of women were, until recently, planned only for the greater security of family life. The tightly closed family circle is surrounded by numerous restrictions. The man of the house decides all matters of policy. The woman rears the children and must keep the home a place of pleasure, comfort, and pride for her husband. She must preserve unquestioned chastity, overlooking the infidelities of her husband with understanding and placid composure. Whatever other interests she may have, she must still consider domesticity as her most important duty.

Marriage.--Although religious power over the individual is not strong, the teachings of the Church have undoubtedly assisted in maintaining the sanctity of the family. Marriage must be solemnized by civil rites. The ceremony may be followed by a religious service, but any priest who violates the law by performing his rites previous to the civil ones is subject to a heavy penalty. Divorce is forbidden by law. For the few Argentines who obtain divorce decrees, in Montevideo as we in the United States go to Mexico, the question of remarriage creates a difficult situation, in that the children of the second marriage are considered illegitimate.

A girl usually marries when she is 17 or 18 years of age. She may not marry without parental consent before reaching the age of 22; a son may marry whom he wishes when 21 years of age. The young wife is taken to the home of her husband, whose mother rules the household. The feeling that an unmarried daughter is a disgrace to her mother is only now being dispelled, and single women are still considered piteably unfortunate.

There are few marital unions between persons of different social status. Among the upper classes, marriages are based on social prestige and name; the 3,000 land-owning families of Argentina have inter-married until kinship between them is almost universal.

Occupational opportunities.--The upper classes formerly considered work, and the necessity to do so, as a misfortune. But some young girls are now demanding the opportunity to receive business or professional training and a degree of independence. Many, even those who can expect a dowry, study typing,

accounting, and secretarial subjects. They enter business offices for a period, but marriage is still the principal aim in life, and the goal of the overwhelming majority of women.

Although women have the legal right to engage in business and to practice a profession, the tradition of society is still against such emancipation. A few girls study law, medicine, architecture, chemistry, and engineering. More opportunities are offered by pharmaceutical training, and many women own their own pharmacies. Teaching affords one of the best opportunities for middle class women, and 84 percent of the instructors of primary schools, 50 percent of those in intermediate schools, and 2 percent of those in universities are women.

Place in National Life.

Political rights.--The Argentine Constitution established the right to vote for all "nationals" (ciudadanos), an ambiguous provision which neither permits nor forbids the vote to women. Although the Supreme Court ruled that the terminology does not deny women's suffrage, they are not permitted to vote in national elections. Legislation to extend the vote to women has been pending for a number of years.

In 1921 the Province of Santa Fe passed legislation permitting municipal suffrage for women and equal municipal and provincial suffrage was made legal in the Province of San Juan in 1927.

Civil rights.--The Civil Rights Act of 1926 guarantees a woman who has attained majority (22 years of age), whether she be married or single, widowed or divorced, the exercise of all civil rights and functions which previously were accorded only to men. The unmarried mother was given the same jurisdiction over her children as that of a married mother; women were permitted, for the first time, to be guardians of children by a former marriage. A trade or profession may be engaged in without authorization of the husband, and women may dispose freely of inherited or earned property.

The passage of the Act was largely the result of the efforts of leading feminists in Argentina. In 1906 the first steps for a complete program of women's rights were taken by the Centro Femenista, of which Dr. Elvira Rawson de Dellepiani was president. In 1912 the late Dr. Julieta Lanteri founded the League for Women's and Children's Rights, and in 1918, she established the National Feminist Party. To these and other feminist organizations belongs the credit for passage of the Act.

Current activities.--Although a man's neglect to vote is punishable by fine, there has been no concerted effort to achieve suffrage for women. A number of Argentine feminists have long been working to obtain political and civil rights for women, but their efforts have received little popular support. Senora Ana Rosa de Martinez Guerrero, one of Latin America's most prominent women, has said that most women are content to continue in the old pattern of comfortable and protected living, indifferent to the franchise. Senorita Victoria Ocampo, founder and publisher of the intellectual magazine, Sur, believes that women are afraid of losing their femininity and their appeal to men, should they actively enter into the political life of Argentina.

Among the leading organizations working for women's political rights is the Association for Women's Rights, formed as the Argentine Association for Women's Suffrage in 1931. Carmela Horne de Barmeister was its first president. The Association, in addition to its work for equal suffrage, has advocated higher salaries for teachers, workers' housing projects, reduced prices for prime necessities, all-year seaside camps for sick children, branch libraries, maternity homes and benefits, newsboys' dormitories, school lunches, and day nurseries for the children of working mothers.

The Women's Suffrage Committee, founded in 1930 by Dr. Alicia Moreau de Justo, published Nuestra Causa, an argument for women's suffrage, and a number of other articles on the same subject. The National Feminist Party is active both in the political field, and in welfare work.

Although there are a number of women holding administrative posts in the Government, there are few who have been elected to political office.

The following organizations have adhered to a Junta pro Derechos Politicos de la Mujer in their demand for national equal suffrage:

Federacion Argentina de Mujeres Universitarias
Asociacion Argentina del Sufragio Femenino
Union Hispano America Oceanica
Asociacion Popular Educacora
Instituto Biosofico Argentino
Federacion Argentina de Mujeres por la Paz
Comite Radical Femenino de la Plata
Union Argentina de Mujeres
Centro de Fomento y Cultura
Union Obrera Textil
Partido Socialista Obrero
Partido Radical
Asociacion de Abogados
Circulo Social Alba
Confederacion de Maestros
Patronato de Reculidas y Liberadas
Agrupacion Femenina Socialista
Universidad Popular Alejandro Korn
Centro de Estudiantes de Derecho
Union Argentina de Mujeres, Filial Santa Fe
Instituto de Obreras Cristianas
Comite de Mujeres Pro-Huerfanos Espanoles
Grupo Universitario America
Partido Socialista, Seccion Femenina
Asociacion Cristiana Femenina
Agrupacion de Mujeres Pro-Sufragio Femenino
Asociacion de Mayo
Asociacion de Maestros
Asociacion de Bases
Partido Socialista Obrero
Biblioteca Maria Luisa Iribarne de Ortiz

Economic conditions.

Economic conditions and the desire for independence are influencing women to enter commercial, industrial, or professional life. Women of the poorer classes are entering factories rather than domestic service, for wages are higher and life is more independent. 1/ The women of the middle class are now trained for business or professional work. The women of society, formerly occupied solely with their homes, intellectual pursuits, entertainment and fashion, are now taking an active part in social work or entering professional life.

Textile, clothing, and food industries attract the greatest number of women of the working class. The number of women in industry, grouped by age and State, is shown in Table 2. Table 3 lists the types of industry in which women are employed, with comparable figures for men.

Teaching has long been the most popular profession for middle-class women. Nursing, still generally regarded as a menial occupation throughout Latin America, is achieving a more honored reputation because of the training programs of the Argentine Red Cross. A number of women have entered the fields of law, medicine, and the arts, where opposition, though strong, is not as powerful as in many Latin American countries.

There is still a general prejudice, however, against the employment of women for any but industrial work. Even there only minor opportunities are open to them, and wages and salaries for women are much lower than for men, although the work may be equal. Employers show a decided preference for young employees, and the married or older single women meet opposition in trying to find employment. Some firms prohibit the marriage of women employees, although a recent law forbids the discharge of women for reasons of pregnancy.

Labor legislation.--The only legislation dealing with women's wages or salaries are Law No. 10,505 of 1918, which regulated payment for home work of women, and a Decree of September 29, 1934, which guarantees equal wages for men and women in public service. A 48-hour week for both men and women was established in 1929 by Law No. 11,544 and the subsequent Law No. 11,640 in 1933 established a Saturday afternoon holiday (sabado ingles) for women, thus giving them a 44-hour week. The working week for night or "unhealthy" work, and for all minors, was established at 36 hours by Law No. 11,544. In 1924 Law No. 11,317 required that a break of two hours be given at midday to women. The same law prohibited night work for women, between the hours of 8 p.m. and 7 a.m. in winter, and between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. in summer, with the exception of domestic servants and employees in places of amusement. The rule of allowing Sunday as a day of rest may not be broken by women employees, with the exception of those in domestic service. Both men and women in industrial and commercial establishments, and those employed in railways, streetcars, and elevators, must be provided with seats, in accordance with Law No. 12,205 of 1935.

1/ In Catamarca, for instance, a house-servant gets between 10 and 20 pesos a month; an unskilled laborer in industry in Buenos Aires is paid between 75 and 92 pesos monthly. Peso: U.S. 1942 25¢

Law No. 11,317 of 1924 forbids the employment of women in dangerous or unhealthy occupations such as distillation of alcohol or mixing of liquors; the manufacture of white lead; the handling of paints containing lead or arsenic; the handling of explosives or inflammable substances, or work in places where these are manufactured or stored; the cutting and polishing of glass or work in any place where dust or irritants or poisonous gases are produced; in quarries or in underground work; in oiling and cleaning machinery in motion, and in handling dangerous machines. By the same law, they are prohibited from certain occupations regarded as dangerous to their morals, which include barroom service and selling on the street.

Maternity legislation.--Maternity legislation in Argentina covers women in public administration, State employment, and in industrial and commercial undertakings with the exception of those in which only members of the same family work. Absence from work is compulsory for 30 days before and 40 days following childbirth, during which time the post must be kept open. There is no provision for additional leave. Women may not be dismissed because of pregnancy. On return to work, one half-hour's rest period is granted every two hours for care of the child.

A maternity fund, accumulated by a tax of one day's pay every three months on the wages or salary of all women employees between the ages of 15 and 45, a similar tax on the woman's payroll paid by the employer, and an equal contribution by the State provides a cash allowance totaling 2½ times the monthly wage, with a maximum payment of 200 pesos monthly. Free medical attention is provided. In April 1942, 362,277 women were insured with the Maternity Fund; more than 7,170,000 pesos were paid out in benefits during that year.

All industries employing 50 or more women are required by Law No. 11,317 of 1924 to maintain nurseries for the care of children less than one year of age. These nurseries, when provided are often models of cleanliness and efficiency.

Women in industry.--According to the industrial census of 1938,[1/] the number of women in the textile industry has increased 446 percent since 1914; the number of establishments, 157 in 1914, was 4,727 in 1935. Of the 36,814 wage-earners (as opposed to salaried employees) employed in 1935, 57.33 percent, or 21,107, are women more than 18 years of age, and 7.59 percent, or 2,426, are girls less than 18 years of age. Men occupy 35 percent of the wage-earning positions, and boys less than 18 years of age average about 1 percent of the total number of employees. The better-paid jobs are not open to women. Of 22,295 women employed, 19,975 receive wages ranging from 25 to 87.5 pesos monthly. Of 9,477 men, 4,672 are in the same low wage scale. The difference in pay for equal work is apparent:

	Wages for MEN	Wages for WOMEN
Helpers	4.30 pesos per day	2.20 pesos per day
Leather workers	7.80 " " "	3.85 " " "
Shirt makers	6.65 " " "	6.20 " " "

1/ Argentina, Ministerio del Interior, Departamento Nacional del Trabajo, Direccion de Estadistica, Industrial Textil, capacidad normal de trabajo de los obreros, especialmente mujeres y menores. Buenos Aires, 1938.

In a few highly skilled trades; for which women have been trained in Government and private vocational schools, women's wages are higher. But these cases are exceptions to the rule.

Salaries in all fields are low. Salesgirls are paid 120 pesos a month (men get 170 pesos); packers receive 70 pesos monthly. Trained or semi-trained office help in Buenos Aires get 83 pesos monthly. Women translators receive 60 pesos a month. Typical prices for home work are 70 centavos for a dozen pairs of drawers, and 25 centavos for a pair of trousers. (Home work may not be the same as that done in the factory during the day).

The greatest number of industrial workers of both sexes are in Buenos Aires, where 44 percent of all office personnel and 46 percent of all factory workers in Argentina are employed. Factories in the capital are, for the most part, modern, and working conditions are good.

Work in Buenos Aires.--The capital city has attracted women form the rural districts, in expectation of more independent, more comfortable, and freer life. But it is said that working women of Buenos Aires, although economically productive, lead a more arduous life than did their mothers in the closely confined home of 50 years ago. Now in addition to their paid employment, they must continue domestic and family duties, a fulltime job in themselves. The cost of living has risen so that their small earnings, which should have resulted in economic independence, must help to buy food (bread is 40 centavos and potatoes 35 centavos a kilogram). One room in the city rents for 30 pesos a month, and many families are forced to crowd four people into this space. Most of the working class live on the outskirts of Buenos Aires, in squalid homes that are unsanitary as well as over-crowded. Rents there are 55 pesos for a four-room dwelling, compared with 100 pesos in the city itself. But travel from home to work is time-consuming and exhausting. The two-hour lunch period required by law is often spent in over-crowded busses and street cars.

Life in the interior.--Life in the interior is far different from that of the bustling capital, and in the industrial cities of Santa Fe, Rosario, and Cordoba. Illiteracy, poor health, and infant mortality are rife. Malaria, tuberculosis, syphilis, alcoholism, and congenital disease are the result of poor food and living conditions. Food is scarce, and lacking in nutritional values. The barren soil produces only a mimimum amount of mate and mamioc. A distant arroyo often provides the only water for both drinking and washing. The houses, mere shacks or cowsheds, are dank and dirty.

Both men and women are slaves to the soil, and women work side by side with their husbands in the fields. They are always the center of home life, but field labor and yearly maternity leave leave little strength for domestic duties. Many families lead a nomad existence following the crops and grazing seasons from estancia to estancia. Conditions are particularly bad in Catamarca, La Rioja, Santiago del Estero, Misiones, Chaco, and Formosa, but the poverty of the rural family, shared by men and women alike, is extreme in almost every region of Argentina.

Many women belong to the great cooperative movement, Asociacion de Cooperativas Agrarias Argentinas (Association of Argentine Agricultural Cooperatives), whose program includes the improvement of conditions in rural areas. Strikes of the peasants for the reduction of rents or freight rates have usually mobilized the entire family. However, except for the 1936 strike of cotton farmers and their families in the Chaco, such activities have not been numerous.

Social Conditions.

Social conditions among the wealthy and for the laboring classes are as strongly contrasted as are the economic status and the standard of living. The women of the aristocracy live a luxurious life, in an atmosphere of culture and comfort equal to that in any city in the world. But the life of the working women is arduous, and the health and economy of the nation are reflected in their long working hours, bad nutrition, and poor living conditions.

Health conditions in Argentina vary greatly between the large cities (see table 1), supplied with modern hospitals and many doctors, and the tropical northern regions and the frigid zone of Patagonia, where medical assistance is scarce.

The high birth rate of Argentina is largely upheld by the family life in rural areas, where yearly maternity is the rule. The high rate of illegitimate births, 282 per 1,000 live births for the entire country, is not a reflection of low moral standards, for the Argentine family is an unusually moral unit. It is due rather to the remoteness from civil registries and poverty of families in rural areas, where the rate is as high as 468 per 1,000 live births. The double standard for men and women preserves the sanctity of the wife and the home, in spite of a lack of marriage rites.

The very high rate for stillbirth and infant deaths is partly a result of the poor health of the mother, who exhausted by malnutrition and an arduous life, produces unhealthy children. Women in many sections of the country, although infected with tuberculosis, malaria, and other chronic diseases, continue working in the factories or fields.

Observers say that three out of five of the Argentine population have tuberculosis in one form or another. Rural families, poorly fed and housed, do not have sufficient protective foods, and medical care is lacking. About one-quarter of the patients in the four tuberculosis hospitals of Buenos Aires are from the interior of the country. Because of medical facilities in Buenos Aires this city has the lowest tuberculosis mortality rate in Latin America (107 per 100,000 inhabitants); that of New York is 52 per 100,000 and of Washington, D.C. 64.5 per 100,000.

The Government has recently been giving attention to the extension of infant welfare services, and to measures combatting tuberculosis and venereal disease. The 1942 Congress of the Argentine Medical Federation appointed a committee to report on the possibility of introducing a general scheme of social insurance, which is now neither comprehensive or compulsory. The six social insurance funds now in existence, the National Pension Fund for Railwaymen, the National Civil

Pension Fund, the National Pension Fund for the Staffs of Public Utility Undertakings, the Bank Employees' Pension Fund, the Journalists' Pension Fund, and the Merchant Seamen's Pension Fund, do not include many women members. Retirement pensions, available to those more than 60 years of age, comes too late in life to be of much assistance to the average Argentine woman.

Since 1823, when Bernardino Rivadavia charged a group of prominent women with the administration of the Sociedad de Beneficencia, the women of the wealthy class have been interested in charity activities. They gave aid to the poor, and organized and maintained hospitals, asylums, and schools throughout the country. But with the emergence of the new type of Argentine woman, these women are becoming increasingly interested in the social welfare of the working classes. Many of the political organizations are taking active part in social work. Work in the improvement of social conditions is tending to break down the strong class feeling which has existed in Buenos Aires and in other parts of the country for generations.

The National Council of Women, as well as working for women's rights, has committees on the protection of children, public health, motion pictures, and education through lectures and publications. It maintains a school of higher education for young women, which conducts Saturday afternoon classes for more than 500 working girls. The Argentine Union of Women is working to improve the status of women, and to raise living and working standards among wage earners. It has established play centers for the children of working mothers in one of the most crowded industrial areas in Buenos Aires. The Federation of Associations of Catholic Employees, composed of 25 sub-organizations, works for the improvement of labor laws and industrial conditions. Most of its 23,500 members are commercial employees, with the exception of one group of seamstresses and one of teacher. Among its many activities is a physical education school for 1,000 girls. The Federation of University Women, which received international recognition in 1938, works chiefly among women university students. Its president, Dr. Maria Teresa F. de Guadino, is a physician, who, in addition to a large private practice, is in charge of the maternity pavilion of the Army Hospital in Buenos Aires. The Club de Madres, founded in 1909 by Dr. Ernestina Lopez de Nelson, a woman long prominent in child welfare work, is working to reduce infant mortality and to protect the health of mothers, without distinction as to race, creed, or morals. It has published a number of informative pamphlets on maternal and child care.

The Junta de la Victoria, recently declared inactive by the Government, was perhaps the most prominent organization founded since World War II. Started in 1941 by Senorita Maria Rosa Oliver, a leader for democracy and women's rights, the organization numbered 32,000 members of all classes, with 27 branches in Buenos Aires, and 58 in the interior. Its chief aims were to teach women how to work together, to aid the United Nations, and to improve factory conditions. Senora Ana Rosa de Martinez Guerrero, a leader in feminist movements since 1936, assisted in the establishment of the Junta. The organization gave $2,000 to the Chinese Red Cross, $5,000 in cash and goods to Great Britain, $116,000 in cash and goods to Russia, and $1,000 are being held in reserve for an emergency in the United States. The work closely resembled that of the Red Cross, but the leaders, stating that that organization was controlled by men, desired to unite women in an organization of their own.

The Defensa Civil Femenina, founded by a young history professor, Elsa Brunelli, is similar to the American Women's Volunteer Services in the United States. It gives courses to women and working girls in first aid, telegraphy, driving, motor repair, and similar subjects. The Comision Argentina de Productores de Lana pro Ayuda a Gran Bretana, formed by Senora Julia Bullrich de Saint, President of the Argentina Horticultural Association, is sending wools to Britain. The Comite pro Ayuda con Productos Argentinos a los Ninos Britanicos Victimas de la Guerra has as its president the socially prominent Senora Elvira Lezica Alvear de Bullrich. The Argentina Guild of British Women's Patriotic Committee, under the presidency of Senora Maude D'Alkaine de Rodriguez Larreta, is dedicated to knitting for Britain.

Education. 1/

Women in Argentina enjoy equal educational opportunities with men. Both in the primary and in the intermediate schools the enrollment of girls is only two percent less than that of boys. In the universities, however, the number of women students is less than 15 percent of the total registration.

As education advances through the primary, intermediate, and higher levels, the number of students, both boys and girls, decreases. Approximately 33 percent of the girls who enter the liceos (secondary schools) drop out before the fifth year. The enrollment of girls in intermediate schools is only 7 percent of the number of girls in primary schools and the number of women students in the universities is about 5 percent of the intermediate enrollment.

The teaching staff in primary schools is made up largely of women and in the intermediate schools 50 percent of the total number of teachers are women. In higher education, however, women constitute only 2 percent of the total number of professors.

In the field of educational administration there were 10 women inspectors or supervisors out of a total of 43 in the Department of General Inspection in 1941. In the Department of Physical Education the chief inspector and one member of the staff of five inspectors were women.

Primary.--Primary education in Argentina is coeducational with boys and girls attending the same classes. The total course is seven years in length and is divided into six grades, the first of which extends over a period of two years. In 1941 the total enrollment was 1,946,225; 52 percent were boys and 48 percent girls. The number of teachers in primary schools in 1940 was 73,742 with 84 percent women and 16 percent men.

Intermediate.--Intermediate education for girls in Argentina is given in five main classifications of institutions: liceos and colegios; normal schools; business schools; industrial and arts and crafts schools; vocational schools; and various institutions including fine arts and music schools. The accompanying tabulation gives the distribution by percentage of the total enrollment of women students in the different types of intermediate schools.

1/ The section on Education was prepared by Florence I. Signaigo.

Classification of Intermediate School	Total Enrollment of Women Students (Percent)
Liceos and colegios	11
Normal schools	58
Business schools	8
Industrial and arts and crafts schools	2
Vocational schools for girls	17
Various institutions	4

Table 4 gives the distribution of the total intermediate enrollment in 1941 according to sex and classification of schools. Table 5 lists the number of intermediate schools in 1941 and Table 6 the distribution of the teaching staff in intermediate schools in 1940.

The Argentine high school or preparatory school is known as the liceo or colegio. Besides the Liceos Nacionales de Senoritas and the girls' private schools, women students are also enrolled in those Colegios Nacionales which have courses or sections for girls, or in the private secondary schools which are coeducational. Students must have completed the sixth grade of primary school and be 14 years of age to enter these schools. A five-year course with a total of 149 class hours is given in the liceos and the subjects studied are grouped under the main classifications of Sciences and Letters, Foreign Languages, and Physical and Aesthetic Education. Classes are given in two sessions with the pupils attending either the morning or afternoon section. The school year extends from March 15 to December 15.

More than half the women students enrolled in intermediate schools are in normal schools. The teaching profession has long been considered a respectable and attractive one and the normal school has become an institution of general education for girls.

The number of normal school graduates 83 percent of whom are women, exceeds by far the number of possible vacancies in the field, with the result that an intellectual proletariate in the profession has gradually been created with approximately 40,000 normal school graduates unemployed.

Normal schools in Argentina are at the post-primary or intermediate level. Students must be 14 years of age and have completed the sixth grade of primary school to be admitted. A four-year course with a total of 145 class hours is given for primary school teachers and a seven-year course for secondary school teachers. The subjects studied are Education, Natural Sciences, Geography, History, Civics, French or English, Spanish, Psychology, Mathematics, Music, Drawing, Physical Education, Domestic Economy, Elementary Law, and Manual Arts.

There are 43 business schools for girls as well as 26 coeducational business schools in Argentina. A five-year course is given with a total of 150 class hours The subjects, which include those of a general high school education, are as follows: Anatomy and Physiology, Hygiene and Physical Education, Singing,

Elementary Chemistry, Elementary Physics applied to Commerce, Spanish, Business Composition, French or English, Mathematics, Political Economy, Geography, History, Civics, Legal Procedure and Forensics, Commercial Law, Fiscal Legislation and Administrative Law, Business and Trade Organization, and Merchandising.

Vocational.

Vocational education at the intermediate level is given in 77 vocational schools for girls as well as in a few of the industrial and arts and crafts schools. Most of the 113 girls enrolled in the latter schools are studying Ceramics or Farm Crafts. The instruction given in the vocational schools for girls extends for two, three, or four years depending on the course pursued. The following courses, or workshops as they are called, are given: Plain Embroidery, Gold Embroidery, Fancy Embroidery, Lingerie-making, Corset-making, Lace-making, Weaving, Painting, Drawing, and Decorative Arts, Jewelry-making, Dressmaking, Millinery, Manufacture of Artificial Fruits and Flowers, Telegraphy, Photography, and Bookbinding.

There are in addition schools of fine arts and music, a national institute for secondary school teachers, a school of physical education and schools for the blind and for deaf-mutes. These schools are grouped under the heading of "Various Institutions" in the accompanying tables.

Higher education.--Women are admitted to the six Argentine universities on the same basis as men and have the same privileges. The completion of a secondary school course, which is similar to high school plus junior college preparation in the United States, is generally the prerequisite for admission. The title of bachiller is given at the end of the secondary school course and not at graduation from a university. University training leads to a doctorate or title as a lawyer, pharmacist, or similar degree. The schools or colleges as they are known in the United States are called facultades in the universities of Argentina.

There are no large campuses or living quarters provided. Students live at home or, if from out of town, with other families or in boarding houses. There are no organized extra-curricular activities and little emphasis on sports.

The average age for women students ranges from 21 to 23 and for men, from 22 to 24 years. Registration of students and the number of professors in Argentine universities in 1940 according to sex are shown in Table 7. Table 8 contains data on the registrants and professors in each university, according to subject and sex.

Table 1.--Vital statistics for Argentina and the United States. 1/

Ciudades, pais	Birth rate	Death rate	Still birth rate	D E A T H R A T E				
				Infant	Matern.	Tuber.	Typhoid	Cancer
	Per 1,000 inhabitants		Per 1,000 live-births			Per 100,000 inhabitants		
Argentina	24.1	10.8	30.0	81.7	3.3 2/	101.0 3/	7.2	89.6 3/
Buenos Aires	19.0	11.7	35.9	45.0	1.8 4/	107.0	2.1 4/	162.0 4/
Rosario	12.9	9.3	22.0	75.8	3.0	89.2	3.2	106.0
Santa Fe	21.4	11.7	37.5	100.8	2.5	148.7	4.0	124.0
United States	18.9	10.5	29.9	45.3	3.2	44.4	0.8	120.0
New York	15.2	10.0	77.5	30.8	2.0	49.4	0.2	160.5
Washington	24.7	11.7	28.9	50.8	2.6	59.2	0.7	145.2
Philadelphia	16.0 4/	12.6	22.0	37.6	2.9	58.6	0.4	172.4 4/

1/ Except where otherwise indicated the data are for the year 1941.
2/ Data for 1938.
3/ Data for 1936.
4/ Data for 1940.

Source: Oficina Sanitaria Panamericana; Informe Biodemografico y Epidemiologico de las Americas, February 1943, pp. 6, 39, and 40.

Table 2.--Statistics for wage-earners and employees in industry by States, 1939 --Argentina.

State	Number of Estab-lishments	EMPLEADOS Men under 18	EMPLEADOS Men over 18	EMPLEADOS Women under 18	EMPLEADOS Women over 18	OBREROS Men under 18	OBREROS Men over 18	OBREROS Women under 18	OBREROS Women over 18
Capital Federal	16,153	615	30,112	67	4,049	9,635	191,379	4,576	64,038
Buenos Aires	16,415	332	13,795	28	994	9,504	130,661	2,694	24,506
Catamarca	210	1	80	--	1	37	1,709	5	89
Cordoba	4,193	63	2,791	5	183	1,689	23,886	243	1,801
Corrientes	623	3	355	--	4	231	3,770	79	270
Entre Rios	1,559	34	1,294	6	101	1,170	11,918	214	885
Jujuy	244	12	409	--	4	143	5,773	4	139
La Rioja	186	--	40	--	3	45	1,677	1	19
Mendoza	2,197	14	1,575	2	79	862	12,943	80	646
Salta	463	13	622	7	31	180	5,618	5	103
San Juan	652	2	380	--	18	255	3,237	61	168
San Luis	327	3	122	--	5	87	2,653	13	116
Santa Fe	6,528	110	5,812	9	285	3,291	46,738	463	4,805
Stgo. del Estero	538	4	438	--	3	144	8,676	4	77
Tucuman	875	30	1,693	2	81	485	11,166	29	535
Chaco	635	6	586	--	10	151	5,836	29	112
Chubut	245	28	803	1	10	157	6,639	2	33
Formosa	102	3	108	--	2	69	1,521	--	11
La Pampa	693	3	124	1	5	175	2,239	10	31
Los Andes	7	--	8	--	--	--	124	--	--
Misiones	329	1	95	--	--	56	1,763	6	20
Neuquen	114	2	194	--	--	33	1,217	--	2
Rio Negro	511	1	157	--	--	79	1,779	8	37
Santa Cruz	114	2	53	--	--	33	813	3	8
Tierra del Fuego	14	--	13	--	--	2	487	--	6
Total	53,927	1,282	61,659	128	5,868	28,513	484,222	8,529	98,457
Percent of increase since 1935.	32.8	25.4	25.5	17.4	44.9	60.1	30.9	20.2	27.4

Source: Argentina, Ministerio de Hacienda, Direccion General de Estadistica de la Nacion, Estadistica Industrial de 1939, Buenos Aires 1942.

Table 3.--Statistics on wage-earners and employees by types of industry, 1939 --Argentina

Type of industry	Number of Establishments	EMPLEADOS Men under 18	EMPLEADOS Men over 18	EMPLEADOS Women under 18	EMPLEADOS Women over 18	OBREROS Men under 18	OBREROS Men over 18	OBREROS Women under 18	OBREROS Women over 18
Food, drink, tobacco	13,742	329	14,916	27	1,112	3,550	102,047	1,471	20,60
Textiles & mfg.	7,052	130	6,289	21	1,294	3,181	37,705	4,850	50,63
Forest products & mfg.	4,932	35	1,864	2	66	2,873	37,974	79	52
Paper, cardboard, etc.	271	7	563	2	65	626	5,370	370	3,17
Printing, publication	2,496	186	5,977	9	597	1,974	20,145	131	2,01
Chemicals, oils, paints	1,199	75	3,182	14	727	394	11,480	384	5,50
Petroleum, coal, and derivatives	68	5	866	1	26	30	4,305	1	
Rubber & mfg.	59	2	423	--	52	186	3,158	192	2,87
Leather & mfg.	1,381	25	1,609	3	141	1,265	16,498	273	2,64
Stone, glass, ceramics	2,993	32	1,366	2	52	1,359	23,895	119	883
Metals & mfg.	4,367	105	3,860	8	339	4,985	43,483	189	3,562
Machinery and vehicles	8,593	115	5,867	11	296	5,137	58,778	63	1,17
Electricity	946	90	6,803	3	574	47	11,929	--	
Construction	2,749	40	2,376	3	108	182	47,755	1	
Mines and quarries	309	26	1,495	7	25	146	15,714	--	--
Unspecified	2,770	80	4,203	15	294	2,578	43,986	406	4,69

Source: Argentina, Ministerio de Hacienda, Direccion General de Estadistica de la Nacion, Estadistica Industrial de 1939, Buenos Aires 1942.

Table 4. Enrollment in Argentine Intermediate Schools - 1941

Type of Intermediate Education	Public				Private				Total			
	Girls	%	Boys	%	Girls	%	Boys	%	Girls	%	Boys	%
Liceos and Colegios	5,838	20	23,680	80	1,809	14	11,486	86	7,647	18	35,166	82
Normal	19,032	74	6,675	26	19,269	95	1,114	5	38,301	83	7,789	17
Business	3,609	30	8,299	70	1,786	41	2,522	59	5,395	33	10,821	67
Industrial and Arts and Crafts	113	1	12,696	99	--	--	1,486	100	113	1	14,182	99
Vocational for Girls	8,891	100	--	--	2,549	100	--	--	11,440	100	--	--
Various	3,092	68	1,467	32	40	93	3	7	3,132	68	1,470	32
Total	40,575	43	52,817	57	25,453	61	16,611	39	66,028	49	69,428	51

Source: Ministerio de Justicia e Instruccion Publica, Recopilacion Estadistica, Anos 1940-1941. Direccion de Estadistica y Personal, Buenos Aires, 1942.

Table 5. Argentine Intermediate Schools - 1941

Type of Intermediate School	PUBLIC						PRIVATE						TOTAL					
	Girls		Boys		Coed.		Girls		Boys		Coed.		Girls		Boys		Coed.	
		%		%		%		%		%		%		%		%		%
Liceos and Colegios	5	7	13	18	53	75	29	20	88	61	28	19	34	16	101	47	81	37
Normal	16	18	4	4	70	78	99 1/	93	8	7	--	--	115	58	12	6	70	36
Business	3	12	4	17	17	71	40	44	42	46	9	10	43	37	46	40	26	23
Industrial and Arts and Crafts	--	--	69	95	4	5	--	--	13	100	--	-	--	--	82	95	4	5
Vocational for Girls	24	100	--	--	-	-	53	100	--	--	--	-	77	100	--	--	-	-
Various	2	15	2	15	9	70	1	50	--	--	1	50	3	20	2	13	10	67
Total	50	17	92	31	153	52	222	54	151	37	38	9	272	39	243	34	191	27

1/ The Instituto Dr. Pedro D. Pumara in Juarez has 1 male student.

Source: Ministerio de Justicia e Instruccion Publica, Recopilacion Estadistica, Anos 1940-1941. Direccion de Estadistica y Personal, Buenos Aires, 1942.

Table 6. Teachers in Argentine Intermediate Schools-1940

Type of Intermediate School	PUBLIC				PRIVATE				TOTAL			
	Women		Men	%	Women		Men	%	Women		Men	%
Liceos and Colegios	1,344	34	2,623	66	867	38	1,410	62	2,211	35	4,033	65
Normal	2,131	64	1,224	36	1,938	93	148	7	4,069	75	1,372	25
Business	631	39	1,004	61	528	62	322	38	1,159	47	1,326	53
Industrial and Arts and Crafts	36	2	1,143	98	17	11	144	89	53	4	1,287	96
Vocational for Girls	434	96	20	4	280	99	2	1	714	97	22	3
Various	210	42	286	58	13	98	4	2	223	43	290	57
Total	4,786	43	6,300	57	3,643	64	2,030	36	8,429	50	8,330	50

Source: Ministerio de Justicia e Instruccion Publica, Recopilacion Estadistica, Anos 1940-1941. Direccion de Estadistica y Personal, Buenos Aires 1942.

Table 7.--Registration of students and number of professors in Argentine universities, 1940

University	STUDENTS					PROFESSORS				
	Women		Men		Total	Women		Men		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	No.	%	No.	%	No.
Buenos Aires 1/	873	16	4,722	84	16,621	9	1	838	99	847
Cordoba	567	13	3,904	87	4,471	-	-	236	100	236
Tucuman	353	36	632	64	985	4	5	80	95	84
Litoral 1/	540	11	4,178	89	6,436	7	2	297	98	204
La Plata 1/	638	13	4,369	87	8,646	5	1	386	99	391
Cuyo	142	29	341	71	483	11	18	49	82	60
Total	3,113	15	18,146	85	37,642 2/	36 3/	2	1,886 3/	98	1,832

1/ Information on enrollment of students according to sex incomplete; therefore, percentages of enrollment based on incomplete statistics.

2/ Including 56 students enrolled in University of Cuyo, School of Modern Languages; enrollment was not included in source.

3/ Including 11 professors of University of Cuyo, School of Modern Languages, not included in source.

Source: Ministerio de Justicia e Instruccion Publica, Direccion de Estadistica y Personal, Recopilacion Estadistica, Anos 1940-1941, Buenos Aires, 1942.

Table 8.--Courses in universities, enrollment and number of professors according to sex, Argentina, 1940.

University and schools	STUDENTS					PROFESSORS				
	Total	Women		Men		Women		Men		Total
	No.	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.
Universidad Nacional de Buenos Aires	16,621	873 1/	16	4,722 1/	84	9	1	838	99	847
Law & Social Sciences 1/	2,900	56	4	1,193	96	2	1	150	99	152
Medical Sciences 1/	7,003	-	-	-	--	4	1	314	99	318
Exact, Physical & Natural Sciences 1/	2,372	-	-	-	--	1	1	149	99	150
Philosophy & Letters	920	602	65	318	35	1	1	76	99	77
Agronomy & Veterinary Medicine	948	27	3	921	97	-	-	68	100	68
Economic Sciences	2,478	188	8	2,290	92	1	1	81	99	82
Universidad Nacional de Cordoba	4,471	567	13	3,904	87	-	-	236	100	236
Law & Social Sciences	1,137	86	7	1,052	93	-	-	59	100	59
Medical Sciences	2,560	415	16	2,145	84	-	-	110	100	110
Exact, Physical & Natural Sciences	668	24	4	644	96	-	-	56	100	56
Inst. of Humanities	106	43	41	63	59	-	-	11	100	11
Universidad Nacional de Tucuman	985	353	36	632	64	4	5	80	95	84
Law & Social Sciences	159	8	5	151	95	-	-	24	100	24
Engineering	247	4	2	243	98	-	-	25	100	25
Pharmacy	231	89	39	142	61	-	-	14	100	14
Philosophy & Letters	348	252	72	96	28	4	19	17	81	21
Universidad Nacional del Litoral	6,436	540 1/	11	4,178 1/	89	7	2	297	98	304
Law & Social Sciences 1/	1,407	17	6	272	94	1	2	51	98	52
Medical Sciences 1/	3,809	465	14	2,744	86	5	3	141	98	146
Math., Physico-Chem., & Natural Sciences	538	14	3	524	97	1	2	44	98	45
Economic, Commercial & Political Sciences	449	31	7	418	93	-	-	32	100	32
Industrial Chemistry & Agriculture	233	13	6	220	94	-	-	29	100	29
Universidad Nacional de Cuyo	483	142	29	341	71	11	18	49	82	60
Philosophy & Letters	115	65	57	50	43	1	8	11	92	12
Sciences	279	9	3	270	97	2	6	31	94	33
Teacher-training	33	23	70	10	30	-	-	4	100	4
School of Modern Languages	56	45	80	11	20	8	73	3	27	11

1/ Information on enrollment according to sex incomplete; therefore, percentages of enrollment are based on incomplete statistics.

Table 8. (Cont'd)

University and schools	STUDENTS					PROFESSORS				
	Total	Women		Men		Women		Men		Total
	No.	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.
Universidad Nacional de La Plata	8,646	638	13	4,369	87	5	1	386	99	391
Law & Social Sciences 1/	3,638	--	--	--	--	-	-	63	100	63
Medical Sciences	1,283	51	4	1,232	96	-	-	53	100	55
Chemistry & Pharmacy 1/	446	139	31	306	69	-	-	42	100	42
Agronomy	303	5	2	298	98	-	-	42	100	42
Veterinary Medicine	278	9	3	269	97	-	-	35	100	35
Humanities & Education	664	371	56	293	44	3	6	45	94	48
Physico-Math. Sciences	1,829	9	1	1,820	99	1	1	87	99	88
Astronomy & Related Sciences	18	6	33	12	67	-	-	6	100	6
Natural Sciences	187	48	26	139	74	1	7	13	93	14

1/ Information on enrollment according to sex incomplete; therefore, percentages of enrollment are based on incomplete statistics.

Source: Ministerio de Justicia e Instruccion Publica, Direccion de Estadistica y Personal, Recopilacion Estadistica, Anos 1940-1941, Buenos Aires, 1942.

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